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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/853,716	05/14/2001	Tim Wilson	O8-887325US1	6617

7590 06/06/2006

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EXAMINER	
BESROUR, SAOUSSEN	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2131	

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/853,716	WILSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Saoussen Besrour	2131	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 March 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-47* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *12-24, 26, 27 and 37-47* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-11,25 and 28-36* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to amendment filed 3/30/2006. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 11, 25, 28, 34, 35 and 36 were amended. Claims 12-24, 26, 27 and 37-47 were cancelled. Claims 1-11, 25, 28-36 are pending. The Examiner would like to point out that this action is made final (See MPEP 706.07a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The corrections to claims have been received, thus previous 112 1st and 2nd rejection have been withdrawn.

Claim Objections

3. **Claim 28** is objected to because of the following informalities: replace "from other users to a request" with "from other users a request". Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 29-36 are also objected to because they incorporate matter of their base claim.

Response to Amendment

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

5. In response to Applicant's argument that "Yuasa et al. does not disclose or suggest creation of VLAN in response to a user request", Examiner respectfully

disagrees. Examiner would like to point out that Yuasa et al. discloses: creation of VLAN in response to a user request in Column 7, Lines 56-65 and Column 10, Lines 17-20.

6. In response to Applicant's argument that "Yuasa et al. fails to teach or suggest a component that receives a user request to create a group pf users and registers a user to access a VLAN or maintains relevant information in response to such a user request without intervention of information systems personnel". Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner would like to point out registration/ routing table in Column 10, Lines 9-20.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35 and 36** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuasa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,085,238) in view of Iijima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,223,218).

As per **claim 1**, Yuasa et al. discloses: receiving a request from a user to establish a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying the group (Column 10, Lines 17-21, Column 25, Lines 3-7 and Column 39, Lines 55-60, VLAN ID); configuring, in response to the request, a network infrastructure to support the group

without intervention of information systems personnel (Column 7, Lines 60-65); further configuring the network infrastructure to support joining users without intervention of information systems personnel (Column 11, Lines 39-44, Column 42, Lines 11-22). Yuasa et al. does not explicitly teach allowing other users to join the group according to the group identifier; and dissolving the group based on predetermined rules. However, Iijima et al. discloses: allowing other users to join the group according to the group identifier (Column 2, Lines 13-24, Column 11, Lines 13-32); and dissolving the group based on predetermined rules (Column 4, Lines 31-40, VLAN status 0). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of Iijima et al. in conjunction with the teachings of Yuasa et al. for the benefit of automatically setting VLAN configuration information.

As per **claim 25**, Yuasa et al. discloses: receiving a request from a user to establish a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying the group (Column 10, Lines 17-21, Column 25, Lines 3-7 and Column 39, Lines 55-60, VLAN ID); configuring, in response to the request, a network infrastructure to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel (Column 7, Lines 60-65); further configuring the network infrastructure to support joining users without intervention of information systems personnel (Column 11, Lines 39-44, Column 42, Lines 11-22). Yuasa et al. does not explicitly teach allowing other users to join the group according to the group identifier; and dissolving the group based on predetermined rules. However, Iijima et al. discloses: allowing other users to join the group according to the group identifier (Column 2, Lines 13-24, Column 11, Lines 13-32); and dissolving the group

based on predetermined rules (Column 4, Lines 31-40, VLAN status 0). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of Iijima et al. in conjunction with the teachings of Yuasa et al. for the benefit of automatically setting VLAN configuration information.

As per **claim 28**, Yuasa et al. discloses: a registration module to receive from a user a request to create a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying a group of users (Column 10, Lines 17-21, Column 10, Lines 50-55 registration/routing table, Column 25, Lines 3-7, Column 39, Lines 55-60 VLAN ID); a registration driver to register the user and the other users to access the group of users, assign the group of users and maintain registration information and state information of a network infrastructure associated with the group of users according to the group identifier in response to the requests from the user without intervention of information systems personnel (Column 11, Lines 1-17, Column 11, Lines 35-51); a module to assign VLAN tags to the group based on registration status (Column 25, Lines 46-57 and Column 26, Lines 12-16); a packet driver module to insert/remove VLAN tags from packets based on registration status (Column 25, Lines 46-57 and Column 26, Lines 12-22). Yuasa et al. does not explicitly disclose to receive from other users to a request to join the group using the group identifier. However, Iijima et al. discloses: to receive from other users to a request to join the group using the group identifier (Column 12, Lines 13-24 and Column 11, Lines 13-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of Iijima

et al. in conjunction with the teachings of Yuasa et al. for the benefit of automatically setting VLAN configuration information.

As per **claim 2**, rejected as applied to claim 1. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach: receiving a request from a user to establish a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying the group; configuring, in response to the request, a network infrastructure to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel; allowing other users to join the group according to the group identifier; further configuring the network infrastructure to support joining users without intervention of information systems personnel; and dissolving the group based on predetermined rules. Furthermore, Yuasa et al. discloses: the group of users is composed of one or more users (Column 21, Lines 66-Column 22, Line 5, Clients U1...).

As per **claim 3**, rejected as applied to claim 1. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach: receiving a request from a user to establish a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying the group; configuring, in response to the request, a network infrastructure to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel; allowing other users to join the group according to the group identifier; further configuring the network infrastructure to support joining users without intervention of information systems personnel; and dissolving the group based on predetermined rules. Furthermore, Yuasa et al. discloses: the network infrastructure includes a physical local area network (Column 21, Lines 51-57 LAN).

As per **claim 4**, rejected as applied to claim 1. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach: receiving a request from a user to establish a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying the group; configuring, in response to the request, a network infrastructure to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel; allowing other users to join the group according to the group identifier; further configuring the network infrastructure to support joining users without intervention of information systems personnel; and dissolving the group based on predetermined rules. Furthermore, Yuasa et al. discloses: the step of establishing a virtual local area network on a physical local area network (Column 17, Lines 58-61).

As per **claim 5**, rejected as applied to claim 1. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach: receiving a request from a user to establish a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying the group; configuring, in response to the request, a network infrastructure to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel; allowing other users to join the group according to the group identifier; further configuring the network infrastructure to support joining users without intervention of information systems personnel; and dissolving the group based on predetermined rules. Furthermore, Yuasa et al. discloses: the step of configuring switches that are IEEE802.1Q compliant (Column 25, Line 54).

As per **claim 6**, rejected as applied to claim 5. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach: the step of configuring switches that are

IEEE802.1Q compliant. Furthermore, Yuasa et al. discloses: a use of Q-tag (Column 5, Lines 57-59).

As per **claim 9**, rejected as applied to claim 1. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach: receiving a request from a user to establish a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying the group; configuring, in response to the request, a network infrastructure to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel; allowing other users to join the group according to the group identifier; further configuring the network infrastructure to support joining users without intervention of information systems personnel; and dissolving the group based on predetermined rules. Furthermore, Yuasa et al. discloses: the step of configuring a switch port that a joining user is connected to with a VLAN associated with the group (Column 37, Lines 61-67).

As per **claim 10**, rejected as applied to claim 1. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach: receiving a request from a user to establish a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying the group; configuring, in response to the request, a network infrastructure to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel; allowing other users to join the group according to the group identifier; further configuring the network infrastructure to support joining users without intervention of information systems personnel; and dissolving the group based on predetermined rules. Furthermore, Iijima et al. discloses: revoking the group identifier (Column 4, Lines 31-40). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of

Iijima et al. in conjunction with the teachings of Yuasa et al. for the benefit of automatically setting VLAN configuration information.

As per **claim 11**, rejected as applied to claim 10. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach: revoking the group identifier. Furthermore, Iijima et al. discloses: the step of returning ports switches supporting a VLAN associated with the dissolved group to a default state and removing all references to the VLAN associated with the dissolved group from the switches (Column 4, Lines 31-40). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of Iijima et al. in conjunction with the teachings of Yuasa et al. for the benefit of automatically setting VLAN configuration information.

As per **claim 29**, rejected as applied to claim 28. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach a registration module to receive from a user a request to create a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying a group of users and to receive from other users to a request to join the group using the group identifier; a registration driver to register the user and the other users to access the group of users, assign the group of users and maintain registration information and state information of a network infrastructure associated with the group of users according to the group identifier in response to the requests from the user without intervention of information systems personnel; a module to assign VLAN tags to the group based on registration status; a packet driver module to insert/remove VLAN

tags from packets based on registration status. Furthermore, Yuasa et al. discloses: the VLAN tags are Q-tags of IEEE802.1Q (Column 25, Line 54).

As per **claim 30**, rejected as applied to claim 28. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach a registration module to receive from a user a request to create a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying a group of users and to receive from other users to a request to join the group using the group identifier; a registration driver to register the user and the other users to access the group of users, assign the group of users and maintain registration information and state information of a network infrastructure associated with the group of users according to the group identifier in response to the requests from the user without intervention of information systems personnel; a module to assign VLAN tags to the group based on registration status; a packet driver module to insert/remove VLAN tags from packets based on registration status. Furthermore, Yuasa et al. discloses: the state information of a network infrastructure is information on the switches that are IEEE803.1Q compliant (Column 25, Lines 53-59, Column 26, Lines 12-34).

As per **claim 31**, rejected as applied to claim 28. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach a registration module to receive from a user a request to create a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying a group of users and to receive from other users to a request to join the group using the group identifier; a registration driver to register the user and the other users to access the group of users, assign the group of users and maintain registration information and state information of a network infrastructure associated with the group

of users according to the group identifier in response to the requests from the user without intervention of information systems personnel; a module to assign VLAN tags to the group based on registration status; a packet driver module to insert/remove VLAN tags from packets based on registration status. Furthermore, Yuasa et al. discloses: the module to construct VLAN tags comprises the SNMP module (Column 55, Lines 10-40).

As per **claim 32**, rejected as applied to claim 28. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach a registration module to receive from a user a request to create a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying a group of users and to receive from other users to a request to join the group using the group identifier; a registration driver to register the user and the other users to access the group of users, assign the group of users and maintain registration information and state information of a network infrastructure associated with the group of users according to the group identifier in response to the requests from the user without intervention of information systems personnel; a module to assign VLAN tags to the group based on registration status; a packet driver module to insert/remove VLAN tags from packets based on registration status. Furthermore, Yuasa et al. discloses: a web based user interface (Column 2, Lines 14 GUI).

As per **claim 34**, rejected as applied to claim 28. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach a registration module to receive from a user a request to create a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying a group of users and to receive from other users to a request to join the

group using the group identifier; a registration driver to register the user and the other users to access the group of users, assign the group of users and maintain registration information and state information of a network infrastructure associated with the group of users according to the group identifier in response to the requests from the user without intervention of information systems personnel; a module to assign VLAN tags to the group based on registration status; a packet driver module to insert/remove VLAN tags from packets based on registration status. Furthermore, Yuasa et al. discloses: a switch commander for configuring a network infrastructure to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel in response to the request for creating the group of users (Column 7, Lines 60-65, and Column 9, Lines 40-53).

As per **claim 35**, rejected as applied to claim 28. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach a registration module to receive from a user a request to create a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying a group of users and to receive from other users to a request to join the group using the group identifier; a registration driver to register the user and the other users to access the group of users, assign the group of users and maintain registration information and state information of a network infrastructure associated with the group of users according to the group identifier in response to the requests from the user without intervention of information systems personnel; a module to assign VLAN tags to the group based on registration status; a packet driver module to insert/remove VLAN tags from packets based on registration status. Furthermore, Yuasa et al. discloses:

the registration module further receives from the user a request for showing information associated with the group of users (Column 50, Lines 49-59).

As per **claim 36**, rejected as applied to claim 28. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach a registration module to receive from a user a request to create a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying a group of users and to receive from other users to a request to join the group using the group identifier; a registration driver to register the user and the other users to access the group of users, assign the group of users and maintain registration information and state information of a network infrastructure associated with the group of users according to the group identifier in response to the requests from the user without intervention of information systems personnel; a module to assign VLAN tags to the group based on registration status; a packet driver module to insert/remove VLAN tags from packets based on registration status. Furthermore, Iijima et al. discloses: the registration module further receives from the user a request for deleting the group of users (Column 4, Lines 31-40). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of Iijima et al. in conjunction with the teachings of Yuasa et al. for the benefit of automatically setting VLAN configuration information.

8. **Claims 7, 8 and 33** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuasa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,085,238) in view of Iijima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,223,218) in further view of Gage et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,405).

As per **claim 7 and 8**, rejected as applied to claim 1. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach: receiving a request from a user to establish a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying the group; configuring, in response to the request, a network infrastructure to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel; allowing other users to join the group according to the group identifier; further configuring the network infrastructure to support joining users without intervention of information systems personnel; and dissolving the group based on predetermined rules. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. do not explicitly teach the group identifier includes a group name and password; and the step of allowing users to join the group according to a group name and password. However, Gage et al. discloses: the group identifier includes a group name and password (Column 2, Lines 38-43 and Column 5, Lines 34-38); and the step of allowing users to join the group according to a group name and password (Column 2, Lines 38-43 and Column 5, Lines 34-38. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of Gage et al. in conjunction with the combined teachings of Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. for the benefit of ensuring that authentic parties are authorized to access a VLAN.

As per **claim 33**, rejected as applied to claim 28. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. substantially teach a registration module to receive from a user a request to create a group of users, the request including a group identifier identifying a group of users and to receive from other users to a request to join the group using the group identifier; a registration driver to register the user and the other

users to access the group of users, assign the group of users and maintain registration information and state information of a network infrastructure associated with the group of users according to the group identifier in response to the requests from the user without intervention of information systems personnel; a module to assign VLAN tags to the group based on registration status; a packet driver module to insert/remove VLAN tags from packets based on registration status. The combined references Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. do not explicitly teach the group identifier includes a group name and password. However, Gage et al. discloses: the group identifier includes a group name and password (Column 2, Lines 38-43 and Column 5, Lines 34-38); and the step of allowing users to join the group according to a group name and password (Column 2, Lines 38-43 and Column 5, Lines 34-38. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of Gage et al. in conjunction with the combined teachings of Yuasa et al. and Iijima et al. for the benefit of ensuring that authentic parties are authorized to access a VLAN.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saoussen Besrour whose telephone number is 571-272-6547. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SB
May 26, 2006

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